



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL

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MEMBER
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE

Testimony

In Support of Senate Bill 284

***AN ACT CONCERNING BENEFITS FOR CERTAIN VETERANS WHO HAVE BEEN
DIAGNOSED WITH POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER OR TRAUMATIC BRAIN
INJURY OR WHO HAVE HAD AN EXPERIENCE OF MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA.***

March 6, 2018

Co-Chairs Flexer, Martin and Hennessy, Ranking Member Ferraro, and members of the Veterans' Affairs Committee. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity today to provide testimony in favor of SB 284.

I had the immense honor of serving in CT Army National Guard from 2001-2013. During that time, I volunteered to serve in Iraq from 2003-2004 and during the Iraq surge efforts from 2006-2007. Once again, I volunteered to serve during the surge efforts in Afghanistan, this time in 2011.

It is both an honor and privilege to speak in favor of SB 284. As the first and only Post 9/11 combat veteran to serve in the Connecticut General Assembly, I take great pride in advocating on behalf of my fellow brothers and sisters in arms. When called, we put our lives here at home on hold, knowing that there was an ever increasing chance of never returning back home to our families. Because of these experiences and the countless other harrowing circumstances that a service member can endure during their enlistment, many now struggle to cope with this reality.

SB 284 will expand eligibility for certain veteran's benefits to certain individuals who have been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder or traumatic brain injury or who have had an experience of military sexual trauma.

Thank you again for your consideration of SB 284, and I urge the committee's support.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Ohler".

Brian Ohler
State Representative
64th District